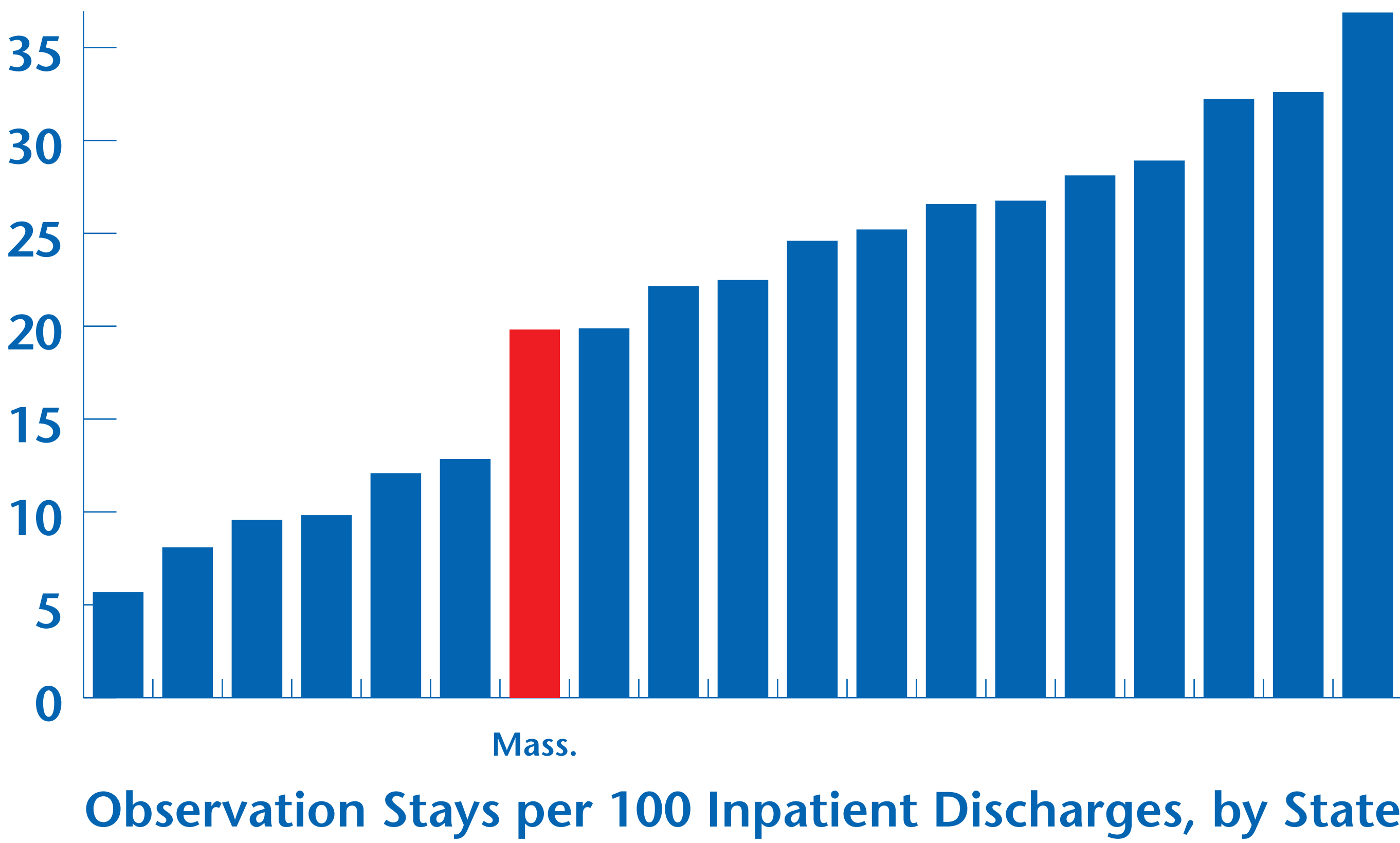


Massachusetts Establishes First Statewide Encounter-Level Database of Outpatient Observation Stays

What is an Observation Stay?

- an outpatient stay, including use of a bed and nursing and other professional services, during which a patient is evaluated for inpatient admission
- potential substitution for an inpatient admission

U.S. Utilization Rates Vary by State, But Observation Stays Are Widespread



Note: Massachusetts rate based on Massachusetts inpatient and observation stay data. Other state rates based on data reported to Databank, Colorado Hospital Association.

What Predicts Use of Outpatient Observation Stays?

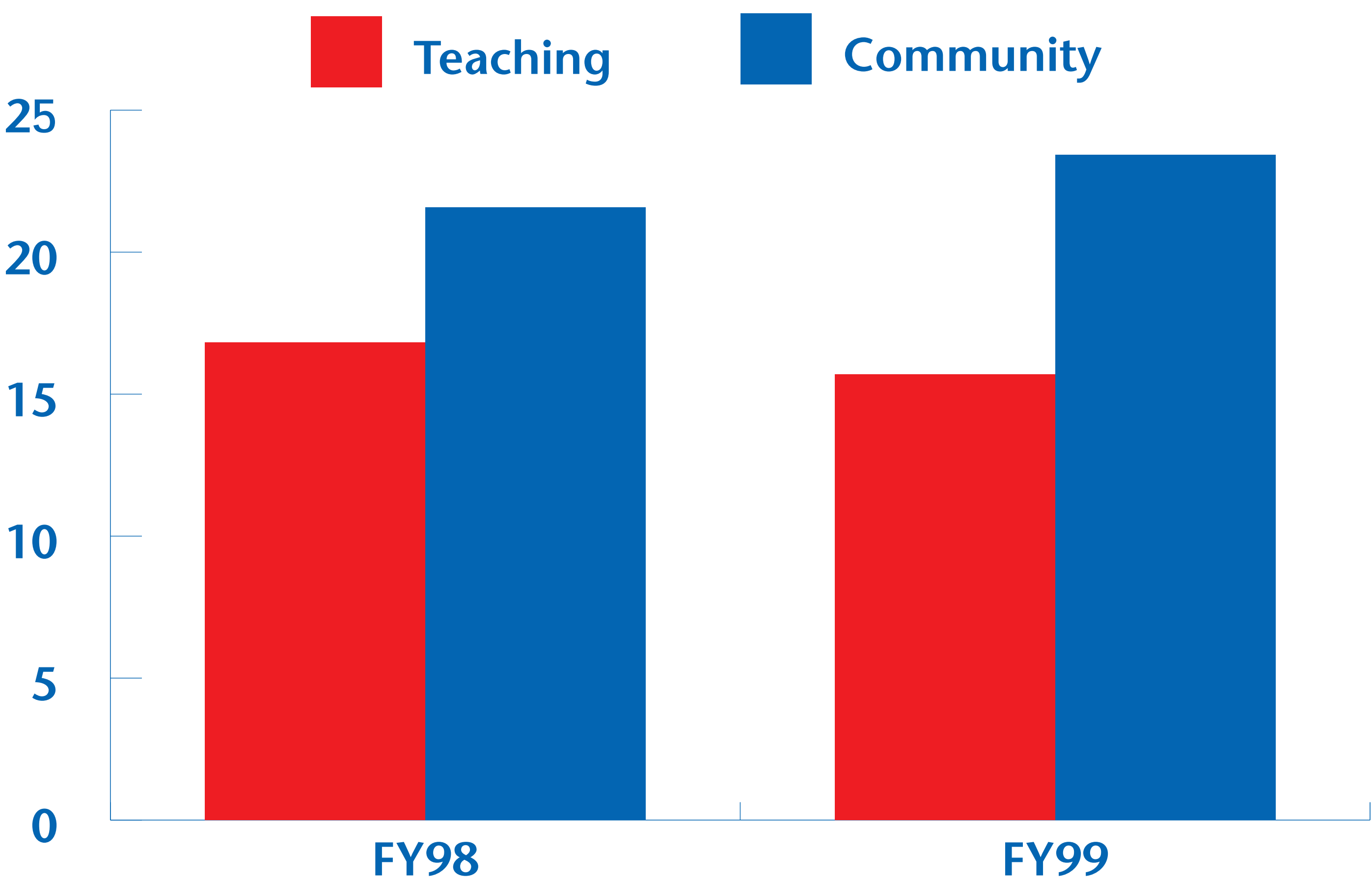
Clinical Factors

- diagnosis
- age
- severity

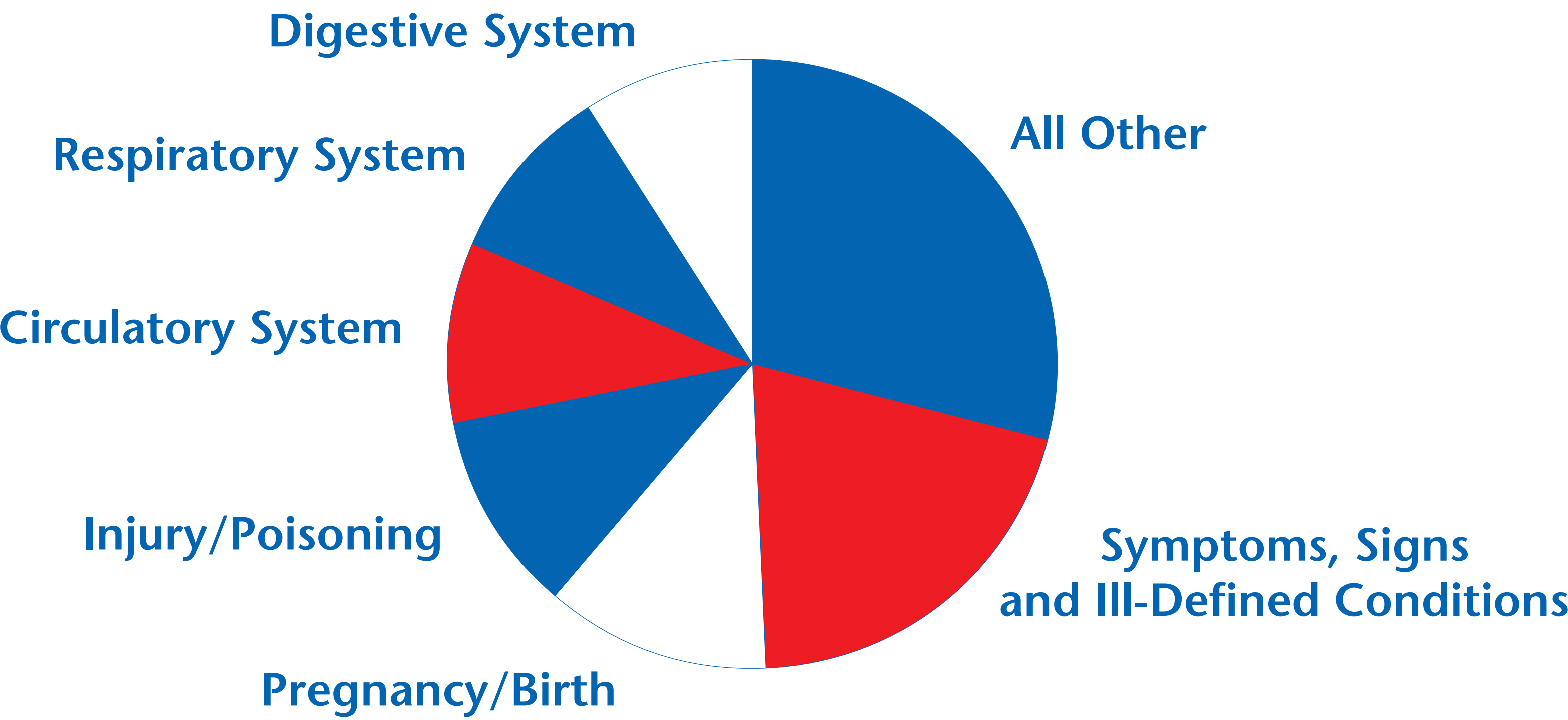
Non-Clinical Factors

- hospital type
- payer type

Community Hospitals Use Observation Stays at Higher Rates than Teaching Hospitals



Principal Diagnostic Categories



Observation Stays: 37% Exceed 24 Hours

